

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3692

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0349

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR, CH, PINT

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS FROM PEKING; PREPARATIONS
AND PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

1. AT JANUARY 22 NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, CANADIAN
POLAD RELAYED SOVIET VERSION, GIVEN TO CANADIAN MISSION PEKING,
OF RECENT CHINESE EXPLUSION OF FIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS.

2. ACCORDING TO SOVIETS, WHEN THE FIVE FAILED TO TURN UP
JANUARY 15, SOVIETS QUERIED CHINESE AUTHORITIES. CHINESE DID
NOT REPLY UNTIL THE 19TH, WHEN THEY SUMMONED SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE FIVE WOULD BE
EXPELLED FOR ESPIONAGE ON AN AIRCRAFT LEAVING LATER THAT DAY.
CHINESE TOOK GROUP TO AIRCRAFT UNDER ARMED GUARD. CHINESE
REJECTED SOVIET PROTESTS AGAINST NOT BEING GIVEN INFORMATION ON
OR ACCESS TO THE FIVE DIPLOMATS.

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3. CANADIAN MISSION SPECULATED INCIDENT COULD BE RELATED
TO INTERNAL FERMENT IN CHINESE STATE AND PARTY, AND TO
SOVIET EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
CONFERENCE.

4. AS TO ICC, ITALIAN POLAD TOLD OF CONVERSATION IN BUCHAREST DURING WHICH CHINESE MIDDLE-LEVEL DIPLOMAT TOLD ITALIAN EMBOFF THAT CHINA WOULD IN NO CASE PARTICIPATE IN "SOVIET REVISIONIST CONFERENCE." ITALIAN EMBASSY BUCHAREST COMMENTED IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR CHINESE DIPLOMATS TO TAKE SUCH A STRONG LINE ON ANY QUESTION, AND THOUGHT THIS A SIGNIFICANT GAUGE OF CHINESE ANTI-ICC POSITION.

5. ITALIAN POLAD ADDED THAT EAST GERMANS, WHO ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING ICC GOAL, TOLD ITALIANS IN EAST BERLIN THAT ICC UNLIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN 1974, BUT DESPITE CHINESE AND ROMANIANS, CONFERENCE LIKELY FOR EARLY 1975.
RUMSFELD

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